

ALEXANDRIA:

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 2, 1861.

Congress.-The Senate, yesterday, passed one of the appropriation bills. The House of Representatives was mainly engaged in debate on general topics.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE .- In the Senate, on Thursday, the bill for the extension of the Winchester and Potomac railroad to Strasburg was under consideration. A message from the Governor concerning the Banks was discussed in the House of Delegates.

A most vital and important subject connected with the election next Monday, is the vote on the question of the reference of the action of the State Convention to the people. for approbation or rejection. We earnestly exhort the voters, of all parties, to vote for this proposition. Its adoption can do no harm-it may be the means of effecting great good. Let it be remembered that this Convention will have in its hands not only our federal relations, but our whole State organization. Only those who wish to precipitate action can reasonably object to this conservative movement. Besides, the people owe it to themselves to decide for themselves as to any change sought to be made in our connections with the Federal Government, or the States, or any change in our State matters. Let this be looked to-and let the vote be for "Reference to the Peo-

The secession members of Congress seem disposed to avail themselves of all the advantages of the Union, notwithstanding they say they are out. Mr. Ashmore, of South Carolina, writes to Postmaster Dix that he has received a large amount of public documents but wishes to know if he may frank them. The Postmaster General says in reply that the Government cannot alter the relations existing between it and the States, and, theresecede the members of Congress from such | men. State are still entitled to the franking privilege. He adds, very significantly. "If however, as I learn is the case, you sincerely and decidedly entertain the conviction that by that act South Carolina ceased to be a member of the Confederacy and is now a foreign State, it will be for you to determine how far you can conscientiously exercise a privilege, the exercise of which assumes that your own conviction is erroneous, and plainly declares that South Carolina is still in the Union and that you are still a member of the Congress of the United States.

The secession of Virginia, as urged by the signers of the late Congressional Address, is urged mainly on the alleged ground that it is only by such concert with the States already seceded that the Republican party can be deterred from attempting the "coercion" of the latter. The following resolution, passed the Virginia House of Delegates with only five dissentients, and the Sepate with only a single vote in the negative: Resolved. That when any one or more of the States has determined, or shall determine, under existing circumstances, to withdraw from the Union, we are unalterably opposed to any attempt on the part of the Federal Government to coerce the same into re union or submission, and that we will resist the same by all the means in our power. Virginia's protest against "coercion" does not require secession to make it significant and

Joel E. Matthews, of Dallas county, Ala., has offered the services of 200 negroes to the Governor of Alabama. In addition to this, the same gentleman deposited in the Bank of of Mobile on the 23d of January, \$15,000 to the credit of Alabama for State

Hon. Wm. Smith would have signed the late address of several of the members of Congress from Virginia, had he not been absent from Washington, in consequence of indisposition. His health is improving and he will probably resume his seat in a few

The Ohio State Journal, (Republican) speaking of Wendell Phillips' late demonstration in Boston, says:-"We fear that before society can be peacefully reconstructed, and the Union made to take the medicine that is honestly meant for its good, such people as Phillips must be suppressed!"

Illinois, has a law allowing persons passin through or tarrying within her limits, to take with them their colored servants, and to retain them there for a period not exceed-

Wm. L. Goggin, is a candidate for the State Convention, in Bedford county, in favor of first endeavoring to restore the Union, before resorting to Secession.

From now, until after the election on Monday, it will be proper to receive with caution all "sensation" telegraphic depatch-

es from Washington or elsewhere. The speech of Mr. Clemens, of Va., is said to be receiving a wide circulation-and

in the North Western part of the State, the demand for it is said to be very great. There is said to be over thirty thousand

barrels of mackerel stored in Gloucester, waiting sale, the Southern market for fish being about closed. Rev. Mr. Suter, of Clarke County, Va.,

in consequence of continued indisposition, has had to suspend for a time his ministerial

speeches to small audiences.

The candidates for the State Convention in Fauquier delivered able addresses to the people, at Warrenton, last Monday.

NEWS OF THE DAY. To show the very age and body of the TIMES."

The New Orleans Delta fears that Gov. Houston is opposed to extending the area of the Southern Confederacy into Mexico. It says :- "We are informed, on authority which we cannot presume to question, that, a very short time since, Gov. Houston was actually negotiating with the British bondholders in reference to a plan for the invasion and conquest of Mexico; that he had offered to head an expedition into that country, and guaranteed to consummate the project of conquest, on condition that he should be supplied, by the bond-holders, with the neces-

sarv means. On Wednesday last, Mr. W. W. Holden, of the Raleigh (North Carolina) Standard, assaulted Mr. John Spelman, of the State Journal, in Fayetteville street, Raleigh, with a cane, inflicting several severe wounds .-Mr. Spelman drew a revolver and fired three ineffective shots at his assailant before friends plied to Mr. Spelman.

The South Carolinians have "no end of trouble" on fixing upon the State flag. The Mercury of Tuesday announces the last change: The Legislature last night again | Banks. altered the design of the State flag. It now consists of a blue field, with a white palmetto tree in the middle, upright. The white crescent in the upper flag-staff corner remains as before, the horns pointing upward.

This may be regarded as final. A circular of Messrs. Arles Dulour & Co. Lyons mentions that although the United States takes annually about £1,000,000 worth of silk goods from Europe, the fall in prices since the outbreak of the disunion crisis has not been more than between 2 and 3 per cent on the superior description, owing to the limited supply in the market. In the common descriptions there has been a reduction of between 6 and 12 per cent.

negroes from the border counties of Maryland, passed through York county, Pa., on their way to freedom. The next day they were pursued and captured in Adams county, and taken back to their old quarters. No opposition was made to their return by the citizens of the village in which they were

A correspondent of the South Carolinian writes from Charleston, under date of the 26th, as follows :- "Active preparations are in progress to take the fort held by Maj. Anderson, and it will be done when the proper time comes. Delay in deference to the earnest request of other seceding States seems to be the reason why it is not immediately bombarded.

A benevolent and eccentric maiden lady Miss P. Towsend by name, died recently in Boston. In her will she leaves \$20,000 to the Home for the Relief of Indigent Females in Boston, and \$60,000 to be applied to the support of those females who, in legal phrafore, not recognizing the right of any State to | seology are called "spinsters," or single wo-

> State of Kansas Territory, under Governor Walker, and Hon. Marcus J. Parrott, the representative delegate of the late Territory, have left Washington for Kansas, to make a canvass for election to the United States Senate from the new State.

Important Correspondence.

On the 27th of January, Mr. Schleiden wrote to the Secretary of State, Mr. Black, informing him that he had received a letter from the Bremen consulat Charleston stating that the consignee of the "Copernieus" had tendered duties at the custom house, which were refused, and from this the cousul infers that the functionaries there are acting no longer for the States, and the minister therefore asks how are the Bremen captains and consiguees of goods imported from Brenen in Bremen vessels to any port in South Carolina to act in order to avoid all violations of the revenue laws of the United States? Does the government hold itself responsible to the owners of goods now stored in or which may hereafter be placed in the United States bonded warehouses at Charleston; and in case of a discontinuance of the United States custom house at Charleston, will Bremen vessels be permitted to proceed thence on their voyage without hindrance on the part of the United States authorities?

Lord Lyons, under date of December 31st acquaints the Secretary of State that he has received a letter from the British consul at Charleston, in which it is stated that South Carolina has passed an ordinance declaring, in effect, that the custom-houses of the United States in South Carolina are converted into custom-houses of that State, and that the revenue laws adopted show how duties are to be collected on account of that State. The consul calls attention to several an organization, but within his knowledge practical difficulties connected with the entry and clearance of British vessels, which may been proposed except in way of merriment arrive at any moment, and Lord Lyons re- and joking. quests the government to furnish him, without delay, such information respecting its o remove any apprehension which may exist that the abolition de facto of the United ect British vessels or commerce to loss, in- to United States regular troops. jury or inconvenience.

Mr. Tassaro, the Spanish minister, on De-Charleston, relative to custom affairs in that

Next, Secretary Black is informed by Lord have removed the buoys, withdrawn the lightship, etc., and requests that he cause the lights and beacons to be replaced to warn vessels of their danger, and in conclusion, desires such information as will allay anxiety of British subjects.

Mr. Schleiden also complains, under date of January 8th, that the lights in Charles ton harbor have been extinguished.

Among the documents, is also a letter from ex-Judge Magrath, dated from the Ex ecutive Department of South Carolina, saying that the activity of the pilots will prevent any serious injury or inconvenience to com-

On the 10th instant, Secretary Black re-He says that he had laid Lord Lyons' comnations, and especially that British sub- tors, could imitate its example. It had been ets at Charleston should suffer by the anom-

clous state of things existing there. Secretary Black then quotes from the law to show that the jurisdiction of the federal government to impose duties on goods imported umberland, at this place, on Monday last, goods very cheap. into the limits of the United States and collect | The sentiment of this whole community is duties is exclusive. Whether the state of af- conservative, and while we are determined fairs now existing at Charleston will or will not to abandon the enjoyment of our just not be regarded as sufficient reason for not and equal rights in the General Government, executing the penalties incurred by British | we feel a gloomy attachment to the great subjects is a question, says the Secretary, and glorious Union, purchased by the blood which Lord Lyons will see no necessity for of our ancestors, and consecrated to our in-The House of Representatives has now raising until it practically arises. Each heritance for all generations. Col. Addison Brussels, and Tapestry Carpetings, which must be case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and Hall was unanimously nominated by the sold off at some price; and, in view of the state of the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will, no doubt, have its peculiarities, and the case will be sold out without regard to Secretary Black regrets that this considera- meeting as a candidate for the State Con- the times, they will be sold out without regard to tion compels him to decline giving any as- vention to be held in Richmond on the 13th cost. Members of Congress and others in want of surances on the points presented. The Trea- proximo, and will, I suppose, be elected, in sury Department, he says, will give public South Carolina has put the coast.

Letter from Richmond.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. RICHMOND, Jan. 31 - Senate bill to authorize the Bank of the Commonwealth to change from a State stock to a Bank on the old principle, and to dispose of its stock, pass-

The Governor made a communication about the difference of opinion existing between him and certain Banks of the State respecting a call made, and only responded to in part, for specie or specie funds to meet the State interest and to redeem the public debt falling due 1st January last. The Governor says that all the interest, whether payable out or in the State, should be paid in coin or specie funds. It would not do to pay the Northern portions in specie, and those at home in depreciated paper. The question is who is right, and what is the correct principle to establish. It does not certainly seem reasonable that the Northwestern bank or Mechanics, should have to pay \$200,000 in interfered to separate them. The cause of specie funds, when they cannot give them in the quarrel was some insulting epithets ap- their place \$50,000 of their notes, but give them other notes. These two Banks have to-day paid \$90,000 in Northern funds, and yet they cannot give them over \$5 or \$6,000 of their notes, but have to give them others. The matter is referred to the Committee on

The bill to incorporate the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Alexandria, was reported | inches. in the Senate to-day.

The Winchester and Potomac extension to Strasburg, was under consideration to-day in the Senate, Mr. Isbell, of Jefferson, advocating it, and as usual depreciating Alexan- best. dria. He spoke of her opposition to this measure as unreasonable: when if this road should be chartered, and the Baltimore and Ohio road should buy up the Winchester and connection, tap Manassas, and take off the principal part of her freight from Strasburg, Harrisonburg to Strasburg alone, leaving ing the people with their own interests. One night recently a number of runaway | the remainder of the road useless, so far as the Valley trade is concerned.

> and Alexandria, has the floor for to-morrow, and as "Major Baylis" would say, has the "pints." There is little doubt of its defeat. The Senate is, however, very thin. These mere right of way bills asking for no money are very hard to defeat, particularly in the lower House: although advantage was taken on Tuesday, after the absence of many members (and when the bill was laid on the table until the return of the Delegate from Alexandria) to reconsider the vote and pass at the time not even knowing that it was ble and commodious, without consulting any

The Delegate from Hancock, F. M. C. Porter, received a telegraphic dispatch to-day, informing him of his nomination for the Convention, as the Union candidate, and asking his opinion. He telegraphed that on no con- the right to control his actions. dition would he vote to secede nor would he sign such an ordinance if passed.

W. C. Wickham is the Union candidate in Henrico, and I think will be elected.

Messrs. W. H. McFarland, John M. Botts nd Marmaduke Johnson, it is also confi-Hon. Frederick P. Stanton, Secretary of dently now expected, will be elected from the city of Richmond. As an evidence of the faith in Botts's election, a bet was made by 500 majority.

Monday will decide the question all over the State, and I, myself, believe that at least 90 conservative men in the Convention out of 152 will be chosen. OBSERVER.

Letter from Washington.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.] Washington, Feb. 1.-The proposition of Virginia for a Peace Congress, which shall meet in this city, on Monday next, has received a proper response from New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Maryland, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Before the assemblage of the proposed body, Pennsylvania, and probably all the other border States, will in all probability be represented. We shall therefore see, on the 4th, the organization of a convention of conservative men, irrespective of party ties and associations who will enter upon the business of adjustment with a candor, fairness, and sagacity, unequaled since the days of the formation of the Constitution.

Notwithstanding the guarded denial of the Springfield papers, the fact is unquestionable that there are in existence not only one, but several private letters from Mr. Lincoln to friends of his in this city, recommending

conciliation and compromise. The select Committee of five have had before them John M. Tormey, of Baltimore, Clerk of the Superior Court in that city, examined him as to whether there existed secret organizations there or in Maryland within his knowledge. He testified that he was throughly acquainted with the class of people who would be likely to join such no such organization had existed or even

Two companies of artillery arrived here this morning from Fort McHenry lately from wishes and intentions as may enable him to | Fort Leavenworth and immediately marched give definite instructions to the consul, and to their quarters. They number sixty-eight men, and are composed of young and active men, and exhibit all the cool indifference to States custom-houses will be allowed to sub- surrounding circumstances, which is common

A private dispatch from Columbia, S. C. was received here this morning, which it is cember 31st, calls Secretary Black's atten- understood contained the following startling tion to a letter from the Spanish consul at news:-A plot has just been exposed by one of the negroes, showing an attempt to destroy Columbia by fire and shoot down the citizens as they appeared at the doors of their Lyons that the South Carolina authorities dwellings. This plot was exposed by one of the negroes; and a white stone cutter who is implicated is to be hung as soon as an ex amination has been made, and all possible testimony elicited. The event has created a good deal of alarm among the inhabitants, and especially among the women upon the

Letter from the Northern Neck of Virginia. Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. LANCASTER C. H., VA., Jan. 26 .- In times like these, when newspapers, like politicians, are but little to be relied on, it is pleasant, even occasionally, to have some public journals whose sole object evidently is to set plied to Lord Lyons, and sent a copy of forth a fair, faithful, and honest exposition his letter to Messrs. Schleiden and Tassara. of truth, in all things. Prominent among such publications, is the time-bonored "Almunication before the President, who would exandria Gazette," of which your senior has deeply regret that any injury should hap- long been the editor. Would that many of pen to the commerce of foreign or friendly our graceless partizans, and unreliable edifar better for our distracted country

almost shipwrecked government. There was a large and enthusipstic meeting of the citizens of Lancaster and North- will now have an opportunity to buy the above opposition to Samuel Gresham, who has been information as to the condition in which | brought out by a fragment of rabid dis-

May God help us in this trying crisis in the history of our Republic, and cause "the wrath of man to praise him, and the remain-

der of wrath to be restrained.' For our President, battling against a maelstrom political storm for our ship of friend R. B., jr., in this place. State, we feel, in this region, a deep sympathy. There is a prejudice against General Scott, justly entertained, unless he is grievously belied by the reports of some public journals.

I trust in God to save us; but if die we must, as a nation, then let me share the weal or woe of my native State-Virginia.

All honor, however, to that noble-hearted, self-sacrificing old patriot, venerable in history and venerable in years -John J. Crittenden, of Kentucky. May the "stars and stripes" never fail from his eyes, nor cease to enfold his memory!

And to you, let me say-may you long continue your career as a public journalist, as you new do, with honor to your country! Respectfully yours,

Letter from Loudoun Co.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. LEESBURG, Va., Jan. 31, 1861.-The snow that fell about a week since has afforded excellent sleighing, and almost every one, who was able to do so, has availed himself of it. It has, however, in a great measure left the road, though the fields are covered several

The weather having generally been quite old this month, a great deal of ice has been stored, but its quality is none of the

The canvass in our county is quite animated, and there will be a large vote for the most conservative men. The people seem to be fully alive to the importance of holding Potomac road which they could do for a mere | the reins themselves, and they are determintrifle, they could issue their bonds, make the ed now that the action of the convention shall be submitted to them. The advocates of immediate secession, of whom I am sorry giving her the benefit of transportation from to say there are even a few, are against trust-

They say that the Convention that adepted the constitution did not submit their work Mr. Thomas, the Senator from Fairfax to the people. But the cases are not parallel at all.

> Our fathers had been living under a government that was in fact no government at all, and they well understood it to be their interest to adopt the better one. Now, they and we have lived and prospered and been protected under the present government, and do not wish to give to delegates the power of destroying it, and almost certainly bringing us into civil war.

I may very properly trust a man to it, some members in the House opposed to it, add to my house, to make it more comfortamember of my family or any of my neigh bors; but, when he, because there is a hole in the roof, is about to apply the torch to it, and thus involve us all in a common ruin, i is time that we should demand and assert

> These gentlemen forget that the convention, unless controlled, have the power to destroy as well as to perpetuate all our institutions, even including that of slavery, and they had better keep a tight rein upon Most of us intend to

Letter from Fauquier County, Va.

to-day of \$1,000 that he would carry the city | Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. RECTORTOWN, Jan. 31 .- Every thing in this part of our county appeared to be calm, comparatively, until day before yesterday, when statements were made, and reports spread, that if Virginia does not secode by the 4th of March, Mr. Lincoln intends to borrow \$200,000,000, to coerce back into the Union the Cotton States, and to pay this, Virginia would be taxed \$25,000,000! Incredible as it may appear, such reports actually had their effect, and were believed by some! It was a fire-brand thrown in to create excitement for the moment. Some thing should be done, at once, to counteract such an effort to poison the public mind. I hope Virginia is not to be carried for seces sion by any unfounded reports, whether through telegraphic despatches, newspapers,

VIRGINIA NEWS.

Fifteen cars loaded with Cotton passed through Lynchburg on Thursday from Memphis en route for Norfelk. Twenty-four more cars, with the same freight for the same destination, would arrive next morning. These cars are loaded in Memphis, and pass over a continuous line of railroad, 930 miles in length, without break of connection, and without a reshipment of freight.

The Mayor of Richmond has sent to jail a man who was caught in the act of stealing a newspaper from the door of a gentleman's DEAUTIFUL WHITE BRILLIANTS AT

124 cents .- We have on hand a part of a case of beautiful quality white Brilliants which we are selling at 12½ cents per yard by the piece or in small quantities, and a deduction of 10 per cent. of peace; enter into any compact with anmade for eash at the time of purchase. ALSO ON HAND-

50 pieces of thin Irish Linens, which we are elling very cheap by the piece, ranging from 25 o 371 cents per yard, and are all put up in small or half pieces, running about thirteen to fourteen yards each, and are very cheap without the disount, but we are allowing the same discount, viz. 10 per cent, in current funds, for cash, at the time of purchase. W. M. SHUSTER & CO., No. 38, opposite Centre Market, between

7th and 8th streets.

CITRIPED AND FIGURED BLACK SILKS -We have on hand a very handsome assortment of striped Bayadere and Figured Black Silks, which we are selling at 75 cents, 87 cents, \$1.25, all of which will be found very cheap, and each marked at the lowest market price in plain figures. Ladies wishing to bay a very cheap Silk Dress, will save money by calling at once and making their selections.

A discount of 10 per cent, allowed in current funds, for eash, on all sales, large and small, until the 15th of February. W. M. SHUSTER & CO.,

No. 38, opposite Centre Market, between Wash., jan 26-10tdif 7th and 8th sts. CHIRTING COTTONS AND LINENS .- We would eall the particular attention of our customers to our stock of Shirting Cottons and Lineas, which will be found to embrace all the Leading Brands and at very low prices. Also on hand, a large stock of Irish Linens, which we can recommend as pure Linen, and Ladies, wishing to avail themselves of the opportunity of buying Light Linens for the spring, at very low prices, have now an opportunity to do so, and make a further saving of 10 per cent, by paying each at the time of purchase,

W. M. SHUSTER & CO. No. 38, opposite Centre Market, between Washington, feb 1-d10t 7th and 8th st SUMMER GOODS FROM LAST SEASON .- We have now opened and ready for sale all our summer stock of Robes, Light Silks. Bereges, Organdies, Mousselines, Lawas, Jaconets, and in fact every thing in the way of Summer Goods, and will offer them very cheap for the next two or three weeks. Ladies about leaving the District A discount of 10 per cent, allowed on all goods

paid for at the time of purchase. W. M. SHUSTER & CO. No. 38, opposite Centre Market, between Washington feb 1-d10t RIFICE.—We still have on hand and for sale, some very superior and beautiful Velvet, Wier,

CLAGETT & DODSON, No. 4, second door east of 9th st. Washington, jan 23-10t

thirty per cent. less than elsewhere.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Letter from a Virginian in Kansas. The following are extracts of a letter from a Virginian now in Kansas, to his

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, Jan. 16, 1861. My DEAR FRIEND :-- I have read with great pleasure your patriotic letter of the 9th inst., and answer with equal pleasure. I am a "native and to the manor born" of the noble old Commonwealth in which you now reside; and am as loyal to all the interests of the Old Dominion as those rash and unreasonable men in her midst, who now seek to plunge her into revolution and ruin. But while loval to Virginia, I am no less loval to the Union and the Constitution, and the Government. My ancestors helped to secure our Liberty and Union, and I were a degenerate son, did I not seek to perpetuate that for which they shed their

The times are big with trouble, and it is threatened to break up this Union, because Lincoln has been elected. Now, after the South went into the election; after Mr. Lincoln has been constitutionally elected, is it not unfair thus to act? But it is said he was elected upon the basis of his avowed hostility to the South. This is not true. Pennsylvania, with her large electoral vote, voted for him because of his pledges in favor of a tariff to protect her manufacturing interests. California and Oregon voted for him for the sake of a Pacific Railroad; and how many thousands voted for him to get rid of Democratic misrule, we have no means of estimating. I affirm, without fear of contradiction, after a residence of four years in Kansas, that the famous attempts to force slavery, and a Constitution which four-fifths of the citizens spurned, upon Kansas, was the main cause of Mr. Lincoln's election. | The writer then enumerates occurrences to sustain his position.

That election was a tremendous protest of the whole nation against the Democratic party. I affirm that more than one half of the votes cast for Lincoln had no reference whatever to slavery.

I remark, in the second place, that, from the foundation of our government, the South has had nearly four-fifths of the Presidents, and of all the offices; and has always gotten all that she has ever asked for from the General Government. She asked for and got Texas, with the privilege of making four States out of her; she asked for and got the Mexican War, and Mexican Territory and California; she asked for and got the Missouri Compromise; she asked for and got the repeal of that compromise; she asked for and got the Fugitive Slave Law; she asked for and got the Cincinnati platform. And yet, with all these trophies there are those who would rush her headlong into revolution, and give up all the guarantees that she has obtained from the General Government. If, in the blindness of suicidal madness, Virginia will go out of this Union, she loses all the guarantees of the Constitution which she now has.

In the third place, the real interests irginia are not with the Cotton States who have seceded. She does not wish to reopen no cotton, sugar, or rice, and does not wish free trade. What Virginia wants is protection and encouragement to her vast mineral and manufacturing interests; this she will never get by uniting her destiny with the Cotton States. And I do hope that our noble old Commonwealth will have too much self-respect and wisdom to tie on as the tail end of that rush, nullifying and seceding State, South Carolina, now in a complete state of anarchy. It was not wise, nor noble, nor generous, nor fraternal for South Carolina to rush madly into revolution without even so much as consulting the interests of her sister States. And due self-respect will forbid Virginia from following a State who cares for no other interest than her own, and who has not wisdom enough to

Fourthly. The Cotton States having broken up one government to the extent of their ability, and having proven false to their own Southern brethren, would not be the most desirable partners in a new Confederacy. Even if a new Confederacy were formed, these same men who have seconded from the old, would secede from the new whenever they thought it their interest to do so. There are thousands of good and true men in the Border States, who would not be tolerated in South Carolina to-day And yet the Disunionists of Virginia wish you to have for friends in a new Confederacy men who would drive from it, had they

the power, your best citizens. Fifthly. One word about Secession. 10th amendment to the Constitution says: "Powers not prohibited by the Constitution to the States, are reserved to the States or house, where it had been left by the carrier. the people." Section 10 of Article First enumerates "powers prohibited," among which are, "that no State shall enter into alliance or confederation; lay any duty of other State." Now, secession implies, of necessity, that all these prohibited powers shall be exercised by the seceding States; and they are being exercised. This is either treason, or rebellion, or revolution.

This government is an organism, as much so and as perfect as the human frame; the hand, or the eye, or the foot has as much right to secode from the body as one State has to secode from the Union. Virginia seems very sensitive about Coer

cion. Now, coercion does not mean that an army shall be sent to South Carolina to butcher her people: it simply means that the property of the Federal Government shall be protected, and the revenues collected. This, the President is bound by his outh to do; and after Virginia helped to elect him, she ought not complain so much if he does the very thing which she elected him to do, and made him swear that he would do. And all this has the more force when we remember that Virginia money helped to buy and make this property, and that she owns part of it.

What then, you ask, is the duty of our no ble old State? It is to abide by the Union, the Constitution, and the laws, as she promised to do when she cast her vote for Bell : to contend for her rights in, not out of the Union: to retain all the guarantees of pro tection to her property by the Federal Government, and not give them up by going out of the Union: to tell Gov. Floyd that he had better clear up his army affairs before he undertakes to precipitate Virginia into a revolution: to tell Mason to go back to the Senate and clear the galleries before he lears Virginia out of the Union. Why it is the maddest frenzy of folly to break up this glorious government, under which, upon the testimony of the Disunionists themselves, "we have prospered as no nation under the Sun ever did."

He who says this, never was, is not now and never expects to be a Republican: he is as loyal to the State of his birth as any man in it: he is an Old Line Whig and a Presbyterian. Faithfully yours,
A. W. PITZER.

Ratification by the People. It is the daty and privilege of every Vir-

ginian to examine and decide upon any action of the approaching Convention that may dissolve the connection of the State such goods can be suited by us now at a saving of with the Federal Union, or change the organic law of the same.

What! yield up the power to the Convention, to involve us in disunion, rebellion, and I will add, in requesting the publication of

civil war, when it may prove that compromise and conciliation may better serve our

After all the time that has been spent in bringing Virginia from the dwelling place of the savage to its present condition: "after all the bloodshed in its defence, and for the maintaining of its civil polity; after all the consumption of patriotic thought and enterprise, the labors of philosophers, statesmen. and divines to civilize and Christianize it;" after the time, the capital, the energies employed from age to age to improve and develope-it, are we to resign into the hands of the Convention its destiny, irrevocably and forever? Rouse up to what you owe our fathers; rouse up to what you owe your children, and reserve in your own hands the destiny of Virginia! Warm up your State pride and love.

Hence do I love my country, and partake of kindred agitations for her sake. She visits oftentimes my midnight dream. Her glory meets me with the earliest beam of light, which tells that morning is awake. MARKHAM.

Fauquier Co., Jan. 30, 1861.

The assigned cause of our present difficulties, at least among Virginians, is a denial on the part of the North to acknowledge us as equals in regard to the ownership, and consequently, settlement with our property, in the territories. Why then withdraw from or go out of the Union, and relinquish or forfeit not only our rights as partners in the common domain which we claim, but also our right to a single foot of territory outside the present fifteen Southern States?" If we can extract from the North by force of arms our rights when we are out of the Union, and when we are without Army, Navy, Forts, and Arsenals-for by that Constitution whose provisions we of the South acknowledge and obey, as we ought to do, for it emanated from a true Southern mind, and received the sanction of warm Southern hearts-all these are the bought and paid for property of the Federal Government; and though they are for the protection of the section in which they are or may be, if we secede they will remain the rightful property of the then existing Federal Government. With how much greater certainty, and with how much less loss of brother's blood, can we do so by remaining in the Union, where we will at any

rate be able to fight them upon equal terms. Is it not asking two much of Virginians, for them to give up without the most strenuous efforts of resistance, their ineffable, dearly bought and dearly prized rights and pririleges in this great country, because a set of miserable, depraved fauntics choose to pass and even enforce laws-though only on their own barren soil-which are in opposition to the spirit of the Constitutions? Should we of the South who have committed no fault be made the sufferers, while the originators of the disturbances and the causers of all the difficulties, the abolitionists, are allowed to retain all the benefits of the government? Every true man loves the land of his birth, though he may not like all his country's ways: and is it wise to wean from us the the Slave Trade, and have thousands of 1,400,000 friends at the North who voted would be antagonistic, and whose rivalry

would soon engender hatred? Had it not been for the rash and ill advised course of South Carolina there would, in all probability, have been a united South long since; the just and righteous demands of which, coming, as they would have come, from one whole people, and not from single, separate, and, in some instances, divided states, would have commanded the immediate consideration of the majority in the Northern States, and, backed and strengthened by the good will and sympathy of the powerful minority, would have secured to us our just rights, and forever settled the slavery ques-

In times like these, it is manifestly wrong to allow pride and chagrin to influence the sober exercise of the judgment, but is it not and for Virginia to stand, and is there not some excuse and palliation for those of us she repel the insults and unkind and ungenerous reproach east upon our glorious old Commonwealth, the mother of States, by the fire-eaters of South Carolina?

THE POSITION VIRGINIA SHOULD ASSUME IN THE PRESENT CRISIS .- This is a question that should address itself to the calm and dispassionate consideration of every son of the Old Dominion, as the result of the deliberations of this Convention will have a decided influence upon the destiny of the country. The eyes of all true patiots, irrespective of section or party, seem to turn instinctively to Virginia, in this the hour of our country's peril. Conscious of the wise, conservative, and patriotic counsels, that have characterized the past deliberations of her sons, they impatiently await the action of the anticipated Convention, hoping that some plan may be developed, by which the states may be again united upon a firm, permanent and equitable basis, and thus restore our country to its once peaceful and

And now, in consideration of the influence that the action of Virginia will have upon the country, in general, and her sister states, now essential it is that we should send to the Convention delegates able and competent to represent her interest, and thus enable her to sustain that reputation for honor and integrity of action for which she has been so long and so justly proverbial.

Let our good old county send a delegate whose experience and conservative sentiments will be creditable to her, an ornament to the Convention, and an honor to the State. In our selection, let us be careful not to select one who can be carried away by pas-

sion or prejudice. Let us send a representative who will not suffer his sympathies for one section, or preudices for another, to bias his judgment; But one who will ignore all sectional feelings, bury all political or party antipathy, and raise himself to the dignity of a patriot statesman, and legislate for the interest of the whole country so long as he can do it consistently with the honor of his State. CO-OPERATION.

The "Strasburg Connection bill" passed the House of Delegates, as every body knew it would. It passed while the Delegate of this county was temporarily absent (for a day or two.) from Richmond. He had, as every body also knows, faithfully opposed it, and worked harder against it than any man in the Legislature-and upon his accidental absence, the bill was laid on the table .-Subsequently, it was found, that, whether present or absent, the bill would pass, and it was accordingly taken up and passed. Neither Mr. Ball, nor Mr. Huntt, nor Mr. Walker, nor Mr. Chapman, nor any body else, will refuse to say, (so I am informed) that our Delegate has not done all that he could to defeat the measure. The Legislature is fully aware that the

people of Alexandria are unanimously opposed to this connection; and it is not necessary to tell them that over and over and over again. It is hoped it will be defeated in the Senate. It will be there opposed by the Senator from this District, who, I am informed, will testify to the faithful opposition that has ever been made by the Delegate .-

this note, that I am not one of those who voted at the last election for the present Delegate; that I have no personal or political alliance with him, and have frequently been opposed to his course and opinions; but as the above has been related to me as the true state of the case, I am for protecting a man from illiberal censure, who is doing his best for our interests, and for

COMMON JUSTICE Alexandria, February 1, 1861.

OBITUARY.

Digo, on the fifth of January, CATHARINE. wife of H. W. Vandegrift. The deceased was a native of New Jersey, where she leaves many friends and relatives to lament her early death. But chiefly here, where the later years of her ife have been spent, she leaves friends who feeling deeply the interest she excited in all who approached her by her gentle character, her cordial, consistent and Christian deportment, mourn her departure as a personal loss which cannot be replaced. She was a true friend. The late Mrs. Vandegrift possessed the rare

privilege of doing good instinctively. Her daily walk in life was an example, teaching silently, but impressively, the duties of a Christian wife and mother; and during her last illness, while suffering from the wasting disease which was cousuming her life, she testified continually to her trust in the promises of her Saviour and her confiding hope of their fulfilment; exhibiting thus in leath the spirit of the true disciple of Christ. DIED, on the 29th ult., Mrs. ANN CLAGETT, elict of the late Wm. Clagett, and daughter of

the late Charles Page, in the 65th year of her age. It would not be proper to allow an event pass unnoticed which excites the deep interest of our whole community. For forty years, Mrs. Clagett has been a benefactor and friend to old and young, black and white. She was identified with our Orphan Asylum from its commencement, and coninued her active labors to the day of her last ickness. Hor place of usefulness in St. Paul's Church, of which she was a devoted member, cannot be filled. Never has it been our privilege to witness such a sorrowing assembly as that which filled the building to attend the funeral serviceschildren gazed with tearful eyes upon the loved features of their departed friend, and even stout manhood could not restrain the tokens of grateful affection. Mrs. Clagett feared not to die .-She expected a fatal result from the first, and in reply to a question, said she regarded death no more than she would going from one room to another. (Southern Churchman please copy.)

At Prospect Hill, the residence of her husband. in Fauquier county, on the 15th instant, after ave days illness, of Typhoid Pneumonia, Mrs. ANN LAWS, wife of Newton Laws, esq., in the 48th year of her age. The departure of this estimable lady and sweet tempered christian from among us visits the hearts of all who knew her with sadness and grief, and her husband and children with bereavement that finds no solace, save in the assurance that their loss is her gain, and that their separation from one to whom their affections so unyieldingly and fondly cling will be but for a little while. She glorified God in her life and in her death, exemplifying in both the power, truth and genuineness of the religion of Jesus Christderiving therefrom power to overcome in her conflict with the temptations, trials and sorrows of life, and to triumph in her grapple with death; and while her example should encourage all, who hope in Christ, to persevere, her sudden and unexpected departure should cause all to heed the expected departure should came."

Master's warning--"be ye also ready."

T. B. W.

At Fleetwood, in Culpeper county, Sunday evening, 27th Jan. LIZZIE T., infant daughter of Thornton and Mary Eliza Stringfellow, aged two months and two weeks.

Yes, dear little Lizzie is gone, but not lost, only taken to rest in the bosom of Jesus, who lent her cannibals thrown upon her shores; she raises against Lincoln at the last election, who for a short time to these fond parents, that they y a division of the Union will be rendered | might learn to love her and make their tie to citizens of a foreign country, whose interests | heaven stronger. O! blessed thought, you have one angel there. Then wipe away your tears, and remember, she may again be yours in "Heaven,"

No sorrow's known And there's no weeping there.

At Laurel Spring, Caroline co., of Diptheria, on the 15th November, MARGARET M., second daughter of Patrick R. and Elizabeth Catlett, aged 9 years; and on the 21st of the same month, JOHN CATLETT, aged 11 years.

In Washington, on Wednesday evening, the 30th January, MARION E. FORCE, youngest son of Peter Force, aged 22 years. On Sunday night last, near Amissville, Rappahannock county, Mrs. MARIAM AMISS, wife of

Mr. Joseph Amiss, aged about 60 years. DIED, at his residence, in Charles county, Md., on the 14th ult, after a lingering illness, Dr. FRANCIS MATTHEWS, aged 54 years.

LYCEUM HALL! DROF. HOSFORD will commence a Course of FIFTEEN LESSONS IN ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF VOCAL

Also, Development and Cultivation of the Voice, On Friday Evening, Feb. 1st, 1861, at 7 o'clock. Terms for Fifteen Lessons, \$2.50-to be paid t the close of the term. The Advanced Class will meet on Tuesday eve-

ning, Jan. 29th, at 7 o'clock. The JUBILEE will be used in each Class. The Juvenile Class will meet on Friday evening at 41 o'clock, Feb. 1st. 1861.

All of the above Classes will meet at Lyceum References .- Revs. Leftwich, Bitting, Lanahan, Ward, Wm. H. Fowle, esq., Ed. F. Witmer, Thes. McCormick, and S. Scott. BEAUTIFUL AND VERY CHEAP.—CURTAIN MATERIALS AT A SACRIFICE.—The stock now

on hand at the old store of CLAGETT & Dopson of all kinds of pretty and desirable materials for Parlor, Drawing, and other room Curtains, is still very complete, and in view of the state of the times they will be sold off at a ruinous sacrifice. Members of Congress and others who would add to the beauty and comfort of their homes will find

a great saving and advantage to make their purchases here, as the concern must be closed out to settle with the estate of the late deceased partner. CLAGETT & DODSON. Washington, jan 23-eo10t.

CARBON OIL. Warranted to give a more BRILLIANT LIGHT AT LESS EXPENSE Than any other Oil offered, and free from smoke. Manufactured, and for sale by 50 South Frederick street and 125 North Gay street, Baltimore, Md., jan 24-eolm=

NEW LISBON FEMALE INSTITUTE. THE next session begins February 1st, at which I time I should be glad to have the remaining vacancies filled. TERMS PER SESSION OF FIVE MONTHS. Board and tuition, (embracing English, Latin,

Greek and French.)......\$85 00 Music on Piano..... No extra charge. Apply to J. A. HAYNES, A. M. Middleburg, Va., jan 19-eolm

500 SHEEP FOR SALE. WILL SELL on reasonable terms, 500 SHEEP, four-fifths of which are Merinoes, of the most approved blood; the residue are Cotswold

and Merino mixed. These SHEEP are all young and in perfect health. Address J. H. CARTER, Jr., Thoroughfare Station, M. G. R. R. Prince William County, Va., jan 22-eo2w ELEGANT SHIRTINGS AND SHEETINGS.

Both Cotton and Linen, can now be purchased of us, at low prices, and a discount of 10 per cent.

made for Cash, at the time of purchase until the 15th of February.

W. M. SHUSTER & CO., No. 38, opp. Centre Market, bet. 7th and 8th st. Washington, jan 26-d10t.

MEDICAL CARD. W. C. WILKINSON offers his service. Con-C. WILKINSON offers his services to the sumption, and all Secret Diseases. Twenty years successful use of his remedies in curing Cancer.
Consumption, and all Secret Diseases, gives them
a claim to public favor. Medicines sent to order. All communications promptly attended to. Glenmore, Va., jan 8-dim

NOTICE.—All persons are hereby forewarned from crediting my son, JOHN HALL, on my account, as I shall pay no bills of his contracting-he being a minor. NOTICE.—The undersigned will attend to the COLLECTION OF CLAIMS, of every des-

oription, for Ten per cent. commission. THOS. H. SPEAKE. Dumfries, Pr. Wm. Co., jan 12-w4w

KILN DRIED HOMINY, and Hominy Beans, for sale by CHARLES J. WISE, cor. of Prince and Pitt-sts.